

ACT of COUNCIL,
Explanatory of the
TEST:
WITH
His Majesties
LETTER
Containing
His Royal Approbation thereof.



EDINBURGH,
Printed by the Heir of *Andrew Anderson*, Printer to His most Sacred Majesty,
Anno DOM. 1681.

ACT of COUNCIL

of the

T E S T :

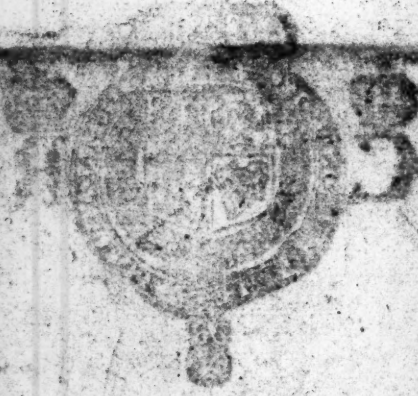
WITH

His Majesty's

L E T T E R

Containing

His Majesty's Declaration thereof



Of the Council
of Scotland, of 1702
1702 21

EDINBURGH

Printed by the Heir of Andrew Millar, Printer to His Majesty's Most Excellent Majesty

James O'Meara, 1781

(3)
Act of Council,

Explanatory of the

T E S T.

Edinburgh the third day of November, 1681.



ORASMUCH, as some have entertained Jealousies and Prejudices against the *Oath and Test*, appointed to be taken by all Persons in publick Trust, Civil, Ecclesiastick, or Military, in this Kingdom, by the sixth *Act* of His Majesties third Parliament, as if thereby they were to swear to every Proposition or Clause in the *Confession of Faith*, therein-mentioned; or that Invasion were made thereby upon the *Intrinsic Spiritual Power of the Church, or Power of the Keys*; or as if the present Episcopal Government of this National Church, by Law Established, were thereby exposed to the hazard of Alteration, or Subversion; all which, are far from the Intention and Design of the Parliaments imposing this *Oath*, and from the Genuine Sense and Meaning thereof. Therefore, His Royal Highness, His Majesties High Commissioner, and Lords of Privy Council, Do Allow, Authorize and Empower, the Arch-Bishops and Bishops, to Administer this *Oath and Test*, to the Ministers and Clergy in their respective Diocesses, in this Express Sense; that though the *Confession of Faith*, Ratified in Parliament, one thousand five hundred sixty and seven, was framed in the Infancy of Our Reformation, and deserves its due Praises, yet by the *Test* We do not Swear to every Proposition or Clause therein-contained; but only to the true Protestant Religion, Founded on the Word of GOD, contained in that *Confession*, as it is opposed to Popery and Phanaticisme. Secondly, That by the *Test*, or any Clause therein-contained, no Invasion or Encroachment is made, or intended upon the *Intrinsic Spiritual Power of the Church, or Power of the Keys*, as it was Exercised by the Apostles, and the most pure and Primitive Church in the first three Centuries after Christ, and which is still reserved intirely to the Church. Thirdly, That the *Oath and Test*, is without any prejudice to the Episcopal Government of this National Church, which is declared by the first *Act* of the second Session of His Majesties first Parliament, to be most agreeable to the Word of God, and most suitable to Monarchy, and which upon all occasions, His Majesty hath Declared, He will inviolably and unalterably Preserve. And appoints the Arch-Bishops and Bishops, to require the Ministers in their respective Diocesses, with the first conveniency to obey the Law, in Swearing and Subscribing the foresaid *Oath and Test*; with certification, that the refusers shall be esteemed persons disaffected to the Protestant Religion, and to His Majesties Government, and that the punishment appointed by the foresaid sixth *Act* of His Majesties third Parliament, shall be impartially and without delay, inflicted upon them. Extracted forth of the Records of Privy Council, by

WIL. PATERSON. Cl. Sti. Concilij.

His Majesties Letter of Approbation.
CHARLES R.



OST Dear, and most intirely beloved Brother; Right Trusty and well beloved Consins and Councillers, Right Trusty and well beloved Councillors, and Trusty and well beloved Councillors, We Greet You well; Whereas, by one of your Letters, Directed unto Us, bearing Date the eight Instant; We do find that some having entertained Scruples and Prejudices against the Test, by mistaking the true Sense and Meaning thereof: And others having put false and unjust Glosses and Senses upon it, tending to defeat its excellent Design, for the Security of Our Government; and that upon this account, you found it ne-

cessary, by an Act of that Our Council (which We have seen) to Declare its True and Genuine Sense, and to allow and Impower the Bishops to Administer the same, in this Sense to the Clergie, in their respective Diocesses: We are so well pleased with that Explanatory Act, that We will not delay to send you Our Cheerful Approbation thereof, with Our hearty Thanks, for your Zeal in Our Service upon all occasions; especially, in what relates to the Security of the Persons, Rights, Interests and Privileges of Our British Clergie, which We do now (as We have often done before) in a particular manner, Recommend to your Care, as a matter wherein you may render unto Us the most acceptable Services; And therefore, We do expect, that you will upon all fit Occasions, give them all possible Encouragement, at these whom We have received, and will constantly shelter under Our Royal Protection, against all their Enemies. So We bid you heartily Farewell.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, the fifteenth day of November, One thousand six hundred eighty and one, And of Our Reign, the thretty three year.

By His Majesties Command.

Directed Thus

MORRAT.

To Our most dear, and most entirely beloved, Brother, Our right Trusty, and well beloved Consins and Councillors, Our right Trusty and well beloved Councillors, and Our Trusty and well beloved Councillors, James Duke of Albany and York, Our High Commissioner, and the Lords of Our Privy Council, of Our Ancient Kingdom of SCOTLAND.

F. L. N. I. S.